

August 2017

FROM THE PROGRAM CHAIR

As we embark on a new academic year, faculty and students are excited to undertake new challenges and form new collaborations. The campus seems to exude vibrant energy as thousands of people who love learning gather to learn more. The 2017-2018 year promises to be a very good one. We extend a hearty welcome to the PhD cohort of 2017, whom you will learn more about in the next section of the newsletter. A brief overview of recent student and faculty accomplishments will follow. Please remember to send me news of presentations, honors, and publications so that we can congratulate you in future newsletter issues.



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UPCOMING EVENTS/IMPORTANT DATES

November 6, 2017 –Sigma Theta Tau Research Conference. You will be receiving a call for abstracts and much additional information about the conference at a later date, but please make a note on your calendar. This is an evening conference that takes place during the regularly scheduled on-site session of the PhD program.

March 21-24, 2018—Southern Nursing Research Society 32nd Annual Conference takes place in Atlanta, GA. All PhD students are strongly encouraged to attend, if your schedules permit. It is not too early to begin making your plans to attend this important research conference. Go to www.snrs.org for more information.

WELCOME TO THE COHORT OF 2017

At Orientation, we are welcoming 12 New PhD Students:

- Rebecca (Beth) Chatham
- Sandy Cobb
- Altheria Davis
- LaKeva Harris
- Elizabeth Kellerman
- Adaya Kirk
- Ben Lee
- Carrie Lingerfelt
- William McCall
- Nina Myer
- Ashley Roach
- Anita Rogers

*We also welcome back Lauren Speck, a BSN to PhD student who has been taking master's level courses until now. She will be taking core PhD courses with the newly admitted group.

I would like to tell you a little bit about each of the new students.

STUDENT PROFILES

Beth Chatham of Nashville, Tennessee, has focused on maternal/child nursing during her career, which has included working as a midwife in Cumbria, England and as a maternal/child clinical nurse specialist. She received her MSN from Vanderbilt University. Currently a nurse educator at the Jeanette C. Rudy School of Nursing and Health Professions, she is heavily involved in providing international experiences for her students. She also works with the Nashville International Center for Empowerment so that her students can be involved in health screenings of refugees. She hopes to study the impact of such service learning projects on students.

Sandy Cobb is a BSN to PhD student who is just embarking on the nursing portion of her career journey, having been an EEG and polysomnographic technologist prior to receiving her BSN from ETSU in 2016. One of her duties in her earlier career was monitoring seizure activity during intracranial grid placements and temporal lobe resections at University of North Carolina Hospital. She conducted an honors research project at ETSU comparing mental health indicators in patients with epileptic seizures to those with psychogenic non-epileptic seizure (PNES), and she hopes to continue research on PNES.

Altheria Davis, a resident of Kingsport, Tennessee, is an Army veteran who is deeply concerned about health disparities in Appalachia. She hopes to influence national health policy with her doctoral research. Altheria worked with Dr. Sadie Hutson during her honors program at ETSU, where she received her BSN. She received a poster award at McNair Symposium and was named an Exemplary McNair Scholar. She will pursue Family Nurse Practitioner preparation during her BSN to PhD program of study.

LaKeva Harris is a nurse educator at University of Northern Alabama whose research interest is

childhood obesity. She earned her MSN in the nurse practitioner program at Troy University in Alabama. LaKeva has provided care to patients in a private pediatric office, a juvenile detention center, and a hospice company. She chose UTK because of the nursing education certificate/minor option, which she will pursue.

Elizabeth Kellerman, a resident of Asheville, North Carolina, holds a BA in Anthropology as well as BSN and MSN degrees, her most recent degree being the MSN earned at Western North Carolina University in 2016. She has worked as a staff nurse in California and in North Carolina as well as adjunct faculty at a community college in Asheville. Currently, she is a nursing content writer for Relias Learning. Her research focus pertains to mobile apps and other product development, and the HITS lab at UTK particularly attracted her.

Adaya Kirk is an alumna of UTK's baccalaureate program (May 2017 graduate) who worked with Dr. Tami Wyatt on educational materials for children with asthma during the honors program. Her passion is to create educational materials for young asthmatic children who cannot yet read and write. Adaya has already presented research at the Southern Nursing Research Society conference in Dallas and at an international nursing research conference in Ireland. During her BSN to PhD program of study, she will become a pediatric nurse practitioner.

Benjamin (Ben) Lee resides in Nashville, Tennessee, where he practices as a certified registered nurse anesthetist (CRNA). He has been active in APN organizations related to nurse anesthesia. His BSN was earned at University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, and his Master's from Wolford College School of Nurse Anesthesia in Florida. Ben is interested in the use of simulation in educating nurse anesthetists and in pursuing the

health policy certificate as part of his PhD program of study.

Carrie Lingerfelt is a nurse educator at Lincoln Memorial University and practices one day a week as an APN at a prison. Her scholarly interests include pregnant prisoners, opioid addiction in female prisoners, and withdrawal procedures that influence the morbidity/mortality of the mother/fetus dyad. During her BSN program, she spent 8 weeks in Zimbabwe, Africa, with physician and midwife preceptors. Carrie received her MSN at Vanderbilt University and currently resides in Johnson City, Tennessee. She is dually certified as a family nurse practitioner and certified nurse midwife.

William McCall, a resident of Tullahoma, Tennessee, has been a paramedic, emergency nurse practitioner, and (since 2011) flight nurse at Vanderbilt Medical Center. He received the Bachelor of Science from University of the South, BSN from University of Alabama at Huntsville, and MSN from Vanderbilt University. His research interests, arising directly from his practice as a flight nurse, pertain to the ethics and cost of patient transport and also reduction of trauma patient mortality.

Nina Myer is a native of Colombia. Currently a nurse educator at University of North Georgia in Dahlonega, she was drawn to study at UT Knoxville because of our nursing education certificate/minor. She plans to research innovative pedagogies. Nina earned her BSN from Medical College of Georgia and MSN from University of North Georgia. She has worked as a nurse in primary care, inpatient

care, home healthcare, and management. She enjoys writing and has already published a paper in "Journal of Continuing Education in Nursing."

Ashley Roach earned a BA in English from University of Texas, Austin, as well as the BSN and MSN from University of Portland, Oregon. Ashley, who resides in Portland, is already involved in scholarly work regarding health care of the nation's veterans. She designed, implemented, and evaluated a program to screen patients at risk for amputation, which has significantly reduced the amputation rate. Her poster about this project was presented in 2016 at the Quality and Safety Education for Nurses National Forum, and her manuscript about the project was accepted for the VA Undersecretary of Health's "Best Care Everywhere" publication. She is currently on the faculty of Oregon Health and Science University.

Anita Rogers teaches at UT Martin, on the Parsons campus, and seeks to acquire research expertise regarding the use of simulation in nursing education at the baccalaureate level. Therefore, the HITS lab was a strong attraction for her. She will pursue the nursing education certificate/minor during her PhD program. Anita came to nursing later in life as a 37-year-old mother of three children and community volunteer. After receiving her MSN in 2013, she began teaching and discovered that she loved it. Thus, her aim is to complete her career as a doctorally prepared nurse educator and researcher.

STUDENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

During the summer, 3 students defended their dissertations:

Mary Lou Fornehed, "Rural Appalachian Person and Family Decision Making at End of Life"

Shirleen Chase, "Understanding Regional Health-Related Experiences and Needs in Melanoma Survivors Following Treatment"

Bobbie Brown, “Do Personal Factors and Interpersonal Influences Affect Commitment to a Plan of Action for Physical Activity among African American Women?”

Mary Bess Griffith, who defended in the spring, presented at the 2017 Qualitative Health Research Conference on her dissertation research, “A Grounded Theory Inquiry into Crying in Women Dealing with the Emotional Stress of Personal Crisis.”

FACULTY NEWS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Dr. Lora Beebe is being inducted as a Fellow in the American Academy of Nursing at its October meeting in Washington, DC.

Dr. Lisa Lindley has received the Solomon Oncology Award.

Dr. Kathy Newnam received the Gaylord/Rogers Pediatric Faculty Award.

ALUMNI ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Dr. Steve Busby reports a new position at Belmont University. Steve formerly taught at Vanderbilt.

Dr. Bobbie Brown will be assuming a new position at North Carolina A & T University in Greensboro, NC.

Dr. Doreen Wagner received the Kennesaw State University 2017 Outstanding Professional Service Award.

Susan Blaine attended the International Association of Gerontology and Geriatrics (the IAGG World Congress that meets every four years) in San Francisco

Jennifer Shearer and Linda Banks, our 2016-2018 Jonas Leader Scholars, will participate in a national Jonas networking conference this fall.

Dr. Joanne Hall was named Professor Emeritus upon her retirement.

Many of the PhD faculty combined scholarly work and pleasure with international travel this summer, including Dr. Joel Anderson, whose travels included visits to the UK, Norway and Spain; Dr. Sue McClennon, who took a group of BSN students to Pamplona, Spain; and Dr. Karen Rose, who spent time in China, UK, and France.